

Applicants: Kramm et al.
Serial No. 10/041,802
Page 2

CLAIMS

1. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A method for positioning a medical electrical lead in a cardiac vein, comprising:

inserting a lead within a portion of a patient's body;
dispersing at least one vasodilating agent to dilate at least one vessel; and
inserting the lead into a dilated vessel.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one vessel comprises a cardiac vein.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising anchoring the lead within the cardiac vein.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the lead is inserted within the dilated cardiac vein to a location adjacent to a left ventricular portion of a heart.

23. (Original) A method of positioning a medical electrical lead, comprising:
providing a lead having an electrode coupled adjacent a distal end portion thereof;

inserting the distal end portion of the lead into a cardiac vein of a patient;
and

dispersing at least one vasodilating agent adjacent the distal end of the lead, wherein the vasodilating agent dilates the cardiac vein and enables the insertion of the lead into a more distal location within the cardiac vein.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising anchoring the lead within the cardiac vein.

Applicants: Kramm et al.
Serial No. 10/041,802
Page 3

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:
inserting a guide wire within a cardiac vein prior to inserting the lead into the cardiac vein.
26. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the lead is an over-the-wire lead that is guided into the cardiac vein by a guide wire.
27. (Original) A method of inserting an electrical lead into a cardiac vein, comprising:
providing a catheter device having a first axial lumen and a distal end;
inserting the catheter device into a patient's coronary sinus;
dispersing a vasodilating agent into the coronary sinus and at least one cardiac vein, thereby dilating a cardiac vein; and
inserting an electrical lead into the dilated cardiac vein.
28. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
inserting the electrical lead through the first lumen of the catheter device;
fixing the location of the electrical lead within the cardiac vein; and
removing the catheter device from the patient while leaving the electrical lead implanted within the cardiac vein.
29. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
injecting the vasodilating agent through a second axial lumen within the catheter device and dispensing the vasodilating agent at the distal end of the catheter device.

Applicants: Kramm et al.
Serial No. 10/041,802
Page 4

30. (Original) A method of therapeutic treatment of the left ventricle portion of a heart, comprising:

contacting a vasodilating agent with at least one cardiac vein, thereby dilating at least one cardiac vein; and

inserting an electrical lead within a dilated cardiac vein, whereby the electrical lead is positioned within the cardiac vein adjacent the left ventricle of the heart.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

connecting the electrical lead to an implantable medical device.